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Tribute to the memory of A. Rumney.



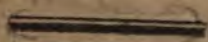
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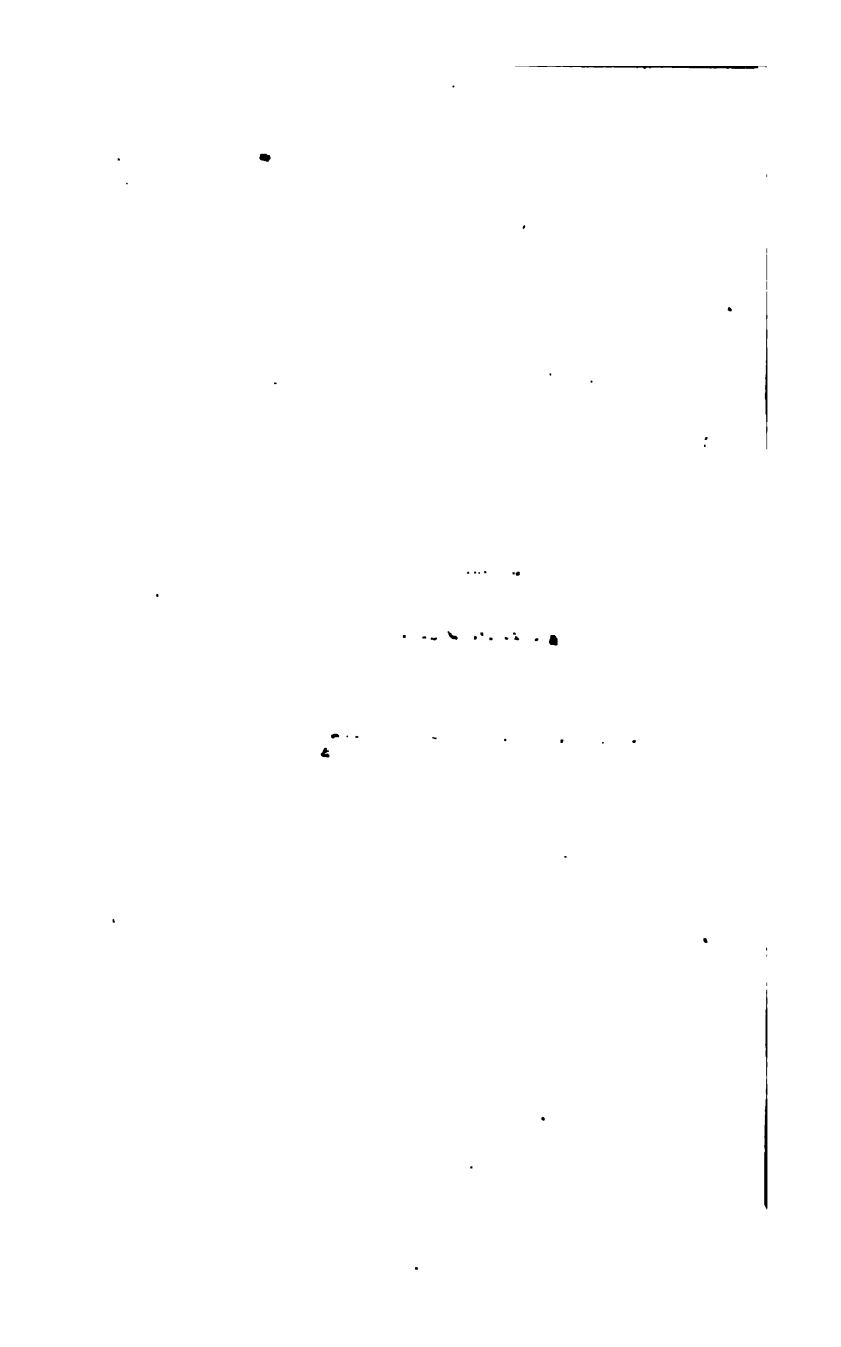


3975



TO THE
MEMORY
OF
MR. ABRAM RUMNEY.





A
HUMBLE TRIBUTE,
TO THE
MEMORY
OF
IR. ABRAM RUMNEY,

LATE MASTER
Of the Grammar School in Alnwick.

BY A FRIEND OF HIS AGE.

—————Where moral wisdom mildly shone,
Without the toil of art, and virtue glow'd
In all her smiles, without forbidding pride. *Thomp.*

—————Cui pudor, & justitiæ soror
Incorrupta fides, nudaque veritas,
Quando ullum invenient parem?
Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit. *Her. L. I. O. 24.*

ALN Wick:

PRINTED, BY J. CATNACH.

1794.



TO THE
GENTLEMEN
OF
THE FOUR AND TWENTY,
OF THE BOROUGH OF ALNWICK.

GENTLEMEN,

As the design of the following sheets is to preserve the memory of a man, who was beloved and respected by you all; I take the liberty of laying them before you. I could not, for one moment, hesitate to whom I ought to dedicate this small performance. Many of you, Gentlemen, have known him long; you will, therefore, be somewhat enabled to determine, whether the character, which I have humbly attempted to delineate, be accurate and just. If you shall sanction it with your approval, it will be to me a source of infinite pleasure; and, perhaps, the means of giving durability to the fame of a worthy man;—a man eminent in his profession, and amiable in the several duties of private life.

152487

THIS ought to have been published sooner, but, amongst other reasons for my not doing it, I entertained strong hopes, that some one of the many Gentlemen, who were educated by him, would step forward, and execute it in a more elegant and masterly composition.

SHOULD I be charged with inelegance of diction, or awkward construction of sentences, my pride will not be stung; I have performed it as well as I could conceive. But I shall then conclude, that the exertion of some superior pen must be provoked by such a stimulus. This will afford me still greater pleasure. Till this happen, I humbly hope, that these contents, though feeble and imperfect, will be generally read.

I have always thought, that, to let the name of a good man sink into oblivion unnoticed is very hostile to the interests of virtue. Such a motive, with others of the purest nature urged me on to this little work.

ANY paltry, pecuniary interest, that may accrue from it, is far from being my aim, or desire, though poor. I only wish to have the expences of printing defrayed. Of this I do not doubt. I have not the

least reason to suspect, that the inhabitants of this Town will be so illiberal, or indifferent, as not to encourage any attempt to celebrate a learned and good man, who lived half an age among them in a very public, respectable situation, and ever demeaned himself with the strictest propriety and decorum.

As it is my most earnest desire, Gentlemen, that the whole Town should peruse this memorial of my virtuous friend, I most humbly request your favor and influence. This will reflect a lasting honor upon yourselves, and confer an immense obligation on,

Gentlemen,

Your most obliged,

Obedient and humble servant,

EUPHEMON.



TO THE
MEMORY
OF
MR. ABRAM RUMNEY.

partiality, or flattery. Let such permit me to assure them, that they will find nothing here but what may be most undeniably attested by many, who have been intimately acquainted with him; of whom some are now alive in this town.

MR. RUMNEY, whose death has been so recent, that it is almost unnecessary to mention it, was born in Westmoreland, where he received his education under the tuition of the able Mr. Yates, at Appleby. After leaving school he became acquainted with Dr. Tomlinson, to whom the inhabitants of St. Nicholas's, Newcastle, are indebted for a considerable addition to the Church-Library, by the donation of his choice selection of books. This Gentleman was, for some time, bereft of his sight, during part of which Mr Rumney was his Amanuensis, and read to him constantly. This proved to be a source of invaluable knowledge to him; for his friend usually commented upon what he heard read to him. This was what at once formed the character of Mr Rumney and endued him with that pure taste, which he had for the Classics. In such a situation he enjoyed many of the benefits of a collegial life, without *hazarding his virtues*. This kind of instruction may be

esteemed superior to the academical in some respects ; especially in the case before us, where the parties concerned had such a mutual esteem for each other, that the desire of the one to hear and learn was as ardent, as the promptitude and cheerfulness of the other, to teach and instil every thing that is worthy the attention of man, either in philosophy, morality, or religion.—I have frequently heard him express his gratitude and love for the Doctor, who thus agreeably allured him into literature, and directed his judgment, with the warmest glow of affection,

AFTER having acquainted himself thoroughly with the purest, and most elegant of the Classic Authors, he came to Alnwick, and presented himself as a candidate for the Grammar School, at the age of twenty-two, in which he succeeded, in opposition to several other gentlemen who offered themselves at the same time.

WHAT ought to endear his memory greatly to the inhabitants of this place, he began his career among them at so early an age, and finished it with them after the long residence of fifty-five years. Many preferable conditions must have offered themselves after he came *here* ; yet so much was he attached to his situation, ar

so void of restless ambition, that, I believe, he never once applied for any other. It cannot be denied that he was qualified for the acceptance of any Classical School; nor that he had interest sufficient to gratify any desire, that he might entertain, of procuring something more lucrative. Yet having an extraordinary portion of contentment; and convinced, that, he had ample scope for the exertion of all his abilities, as a Master, and for his virtues, as a useful Citizen of the world; he never wished to change.—A disposition of this kind is highly worthy of being holden up for the admiration of the present age. Not that I think, with some gloomy minds, that this age is any worse than the last; or, that evils have accumulated in these our days; but, that a false species of ambition is more prevalent now than formerly. So little attention is paid to real merit, and actual qualifications, that it is nothing rare to see an inanimate figure; a man void of common sense; appointed to execute an office that demands talents and abilities. And so few men act upon honest principles, that we never hear of one telling his patron that he is not equal to, or unqualified for, the post which *is offered to him*. How many are there, who apply *and strain every nerve, to obtain those offices, whose duties they are unable to perform.*

As I have always thought, that, to exhibit the dark side of a character to the public view, and to exclaim against it in severity of language, is not so effectual in checking vice, as the celebration and magnifying of whatever is fair and good, without descanting upon their opposites ; I shall not disgust my readers with telling them, that Mr. Rumney had this fault, or the other, but shall lay before them whatever I myself have seen, or heard of him, that is entitled to praise, or worthy of being imitated. But, lest, from what I have just now said, it should be inferred, that I wish to conceal some part of his character ; and that he had some vices so enormous, that, were they published, they might sully the whole ; permit me to declare solemnly, that I never saw him do, or heard him say, any thing that did not become the gentleman and the scholar. I had the honor of a very close intimacy and friendship with him, for nearly four years, which, though it was in the winter of life, enabled me to see thoroughly into his soul ; and as Dr. Croxall justly observes “ It is no difficult matter to form a just notion of what the prime of any one’s life was, from the spirit and flavour which remain even in the last dregs ”.—Again,—“ such as we find people at that time of life (old age,) much the same they certain

ly were, in those which they call their better days", These observations were fully verified in this venerable man. This I shall make appear very evident in a faithful exhibition of his character, which I here present to my readers.

IN the discharge of his duties, as a Master, he could not well be exceeded. His professional talents were such, as not only procured him a large number of pupils from the Town, and its vicinity, but also induced most of the first families in this part of the County to place their sons under his tuition. By far the major part of his time, he had a very full, respectable school. Nothing could have prevented its continuance, but repeated attacks of the Gout, under which he laboured for, I believe, nearly forty years ; and other diseases, which rendered him incapable of those exertions, by which he was wont to extinguish himself, in communicating his knowledge to the youthful understanding, and in leading his charge over the Classic Fields with an enchanting pleasure.—Vouchers are not wanting to confirm what have said of his ability, as a teacher. Several gentlemen of respectability in literature, formerly under his *will, I dare say, on every occasion, cheerfully the same.*

To those youths, who gave proofs of their genius whilst at school, he had the greatest attachment, and regarded them with the warmth of a parent, whenever they visited him afterwards.—An instance of this I was witness to this last year. A young gentleman on his return from Oxford, in the autumn, called upon him repeatedly during the vacation, which, as usual, caused a temporary elevation of his spirits. Within a day or two of his departure for the University, he went and saw him again. Mr Rumney taking this for his farewell visit, when his old scholar was leaving the room, exclaimed with all that tenderness, which a sincere esteem and affection suggest, at the same time making use of his Christian name ;—"O do call on me to-morrow H——y, for you will see me no more." This, alas ! was too true a prediction.

For his abilities, as a Preceptor and Guardian of youth, but more especially for his integrity of soul, his natural sweetness of temper and sociability of disposition, he was most highly respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He was in the constant habit of associating with the principal and most worthy inhabitants of this Town, of whose esteem his acquisitions in literature, vivacity and good nature, ensured him, as they did also of some of the most reputable far.

milies in the neighbouring country.—As an evidence of the respectability in which he was holden, let it be recorded, that, when Steward of the Sons of the Clergy, he collected considerably more money than any of his predecessors in that office.—I have heard him say, that he was the first Lay Steward.—

When in company, his ruling maxim was, to make himself agreeable, if possible, pleasing ; honestly endeavouring to promote cheerfulness and hilarity, by all the virtuous means of which he was master. What must have peculiarly endeared him to those who enjoyed an intimacy with him, was, that in his conversation he was easy and candid ; quite devoid of pedantry ; and, though, from his knowledge of moral and natural philosophy, he was enabled to speak upon most subjects with confidence ; he ever delivered his sentiments in the most modest manner ; at the same time, paying the strictest attention to any thing said by others, that was repugnant to his own thoughts ; with the utmost candor acknowledging his errors, and rectifying them by the superior judgement of his opponents.—Few men, of his profession are remarkable for modesty in asserting their opinions, particularly on learned subjects. On the contrary they are generally obstinate, and pedantic. This is very lamentable. That those men, on whom there

'is so great a dependence, in whom a youth has a right to expect an example of whatever they inculcate, should be perfect patterns of pedantry, can not fail to excite surprise in every thinking mind. Hence must flow the greatest detriment in the education of youths, who should see nothing in a teacher's mind, but what is fair, candid, and open. Any false principles, or unjust sentiments, which men of this stamp sow in youthful breasts, will, from that immoderate confidence which always attends pedantry, take deep root, and remain unalterably fixed.

THAT the modest countenance might never be put to the blush, nor any thing relative to virtue become the subject of jest or ridicule, in his presence, he ever carefully avoided saying, or doing any thing indelicate himself ; never made use of sarcasm, taunt, or severe satire ; and, when he could, prevented others from doing it. Nothing was more painful to him, than to see virtue exposed to the attacks of unfeeling impudence. So highly did he esteem the faintest appearance of this gem, that, instead of being the means of sullyng it, as is the detestable practice of very many, he exerted himself to his utmost, in order to improve its present brightness, or accelerate, its increasing splendor.

The baneful effects of ebriety were so strongly imprinted in his mind, as to excite the greatest aversion from excess in drinking. With this aversion the limits, which he proposed to himself in that particular, perfectly accorded. This is so well known by all who were acquainted with him, that I shall not insist further upon it,

ALL the time I was intimate with him, I never heard him swear an oath, or speak any thing profane or indelicate. He always mentioned the detestable practice of common swearing with the most pointed disapprobation, considering it, as it most certainly is, a reproach to the understanding ; a vicious habit of the most unpardonable nature ; not only because it is offensive to the Deity, and a violent breach of his most express law ; but also, as he has often observed to me, because it is a gross violation of civil manners, and may easily be avoided. It is alledged by many, and they not of the vulgar, that, after having been long accustomed to these insignificant expressions, these abominable expietives in conversation, which are called oaths, they are incapable of retrenching them ; in short, that they must swear. This he would not admit, and bade me remark, that the *most violent swearer* can, and will refrain, in the audi-

ence of his superior, whom he respects, or wishes to honor; and who, he knows, loathes the vice; especially if he be a dependant. He once adduced to me an indisputable proof of this. Dining with the late Duke, in company with a gentleman, who was very guilty of this vice; several others, as well as his-self, expected that, everytime he opened his lips, he would preface with his usual thunderings; but they were most agreeably deceived, for he never uttered an oath.

His humility and condescension were eminently conspicuous, so that he would stand and talk with the lowest individuals; interrogate them respecting the health of their families, and other trifling domestic concerns which came within his cognizance, with all that regard and affection, which evince the man of humanity, and the fellow-Christian. It is worthy of remark, that, in the common salutation of uncovering the head, he appeared desirous of being the first to shew his respect, and generally was. He was perfectly free from that supercilious expectation of previous obeisance, which is too prevalent, even in the middle and lower ranks of society.

Any particular mark of attention, paid to him by the Great, never elated, nor filled his heart with false pr

or contempt of his fellow-creatures.—It will, I dare say, please most of my Readers, to see part of a letter written to him, after the death of his eldest son in America, by one of the noblest characters of the age.

MOUNT VERNON, 5th of July, 1784.

“ SIR,

I - - - - -

- - - - -

HAVING imbibed a warm friendship for your eldest son, while living, any act by which I could, consistently, have given aid to your other son, or rendered service to you, should have been afforded with pleasure.

OF this I pray you to be assured, as also of the sincerity of my condolence on the loss you have sustained of him.—He was an amiable man, in whom this Country has lost a worthy Citizen.

With respect & esteem,

I am, Sir,

Yr. most obed. serv.

GEO. WASHINGTON.”

MR. RUMNEY,

ALNWICK.

THE General's remarkable civility and kindness were never mentioned with the least vaunting or glorying. But the rational pleasure, which this letter gave him, was very obvious in his countenance, whenever he read it; not less so, in the grateful language, in which he always spoke of it.

THOUGH he was no advocate for the many unnecessary and superficial ceremonies of an over-refined, and effeminate politeness, he retained those indispensable ones, which prevent the indulgence of too gross familiarities, even in his own family; from all others he was greatly averse.

No part of his character is more excellent, than that candor which he possessed in an eminent degree. He never hazarded any conjectures touching a man's reputation, nor animadverted upon his vices, unless they were very obvious and positive. When-ever the misconduct, or imprudent behaviour of any one, was the reigning subject of discourse, he ever endeavoured to put as favorable a construction upon it, as it was capable of receiving. But where there was any thing to commend, any virtuous action to celebrate, any noble sentiment to be displayed, and circulated through society, he never failed to do it. What was good and gr

he wished to extol and magnify ; what was mean or vicious, he publicly reprobated, if he thought it necessary to the benefit of mankind ; if not, he rather chose to let it be unnoticed, and consign it over to oblivion.——

For nothing so much as this generous disposition, did I revere and esteem him. Here he appears to me in the highest amiability ; as entitled to a much more elevated strain of praise than I am capable of exhibiting ; as demanding the respect and approbation of all good men, so justly due to this most noble temper. Where-ever we discover it, we may safely adopt it as a criterion of a virtuous soul ; for it cannot inhabit a foul mansion. Nothing can produce it but a great love and charity for all men ; a sincere regard for another's reputation, for his choicest possession, which is so hardly acquired, and so easily destroyed ; a thorough knowledge of the baneful influence of calumny ;—but above all, just conceptions of that religion, which informs us, that, “Charity”, or more properly, Love, “thinketh no evil,” and that, of faith, hope and charity, the last is the greatest, and most pleasing to God.—For my part, where I dis-

cover this beauty in a character, I instantly give credit to some of the most exalted virtues ; I never was deceived.—*I am confident, that this alone would establish*

the fair memory of my honorable, deceased friend, without noticing any thing more.

His feelings were remarkably fine ; so that they frequently occasioned anxiety and distress. His sensibility was rather too tender. His humanity and kindness was so extreme and unlimited ; his detestation and horror of cruelty so strong, that he could not endure to hear a relation of any of the late tragic scenes on the Continent. He always avoided reading any thing of that nature in the News-paper. If, by chance, any person unluckily acquainted him with the particulars of a battle, or popular tumult, in which any savage, sanguinary deed, was perpetrated, his mind revolted ; was instantly disordered ; and, especially of late, became a prey to dejection, and all those excruciating sensations of a sympathetic heart, incapable of relieving the object of its compassion.—With this extreme sensibility was united an universal delicacy, in a greater degree, than I ever perceived in any of our sex.

THOUGH an enemy to every appearance of base pride and affectation, he was laudably proud of cleanliness and simplicity, both in his diet and raiment. His manner of living was truly methodical. From the stated hours of

meals he never deviated. The time for going to bed, and rising in the morning, was fixed, and most strictly adhered to. He was very abstemious in food. I think that I never saw a man eat so little. His temperance was most potent barrier to the more violent attacks of the Gout, and contributed not a little to his longevity.

No man, I am persuaded, ever had cause to regret doing him a kindness. He was possessed of a most grateful heart. He had such a kind, reciprocal propensity, as would not allow him to neglect the slightest means of acknowledging his obligation, or of requiting his benefactor, which, if possible, he always did, sometimes with large interest.

In his friendly alliances he had the most unfeigned and sincere attachment ; the strictest honor, fidelity, and truth. Purely disinterested, and aiming at nothing more than a faithful heart, he desired only that mutual affection and congeniality of mind, for whose sakes men form these particular intimacies with each other.—I believe that, it will not diminish Mr. Rumney's worth, if I observe that Mr. Stoddart, late Clergyman of this Church, and he, were in the most inviolable bonds of social friendship ; bonds, which nothing but Death could dissolve ; now, perhaps, renewed again. Of Mr.

Stoddart, as a man, he ever spoke with great approbation and respect, but, as a dear friend, with such a rapture and burst of affection, as nothing could excite, but the lively recollection of a most exalted and honorable union.

WARMTH of natural affection, in that degree, in which he exhibited it, was almost peculiar to him. A very notable instance of this occurred, some few months previous to his decease. Having one morning received a letter from a friend, acquainting him with a certain piece of kindness which he had done for him; after he had read it, he pressed it to his lips, and exclaimed in the beautiful words of ADDISON,

“ AND IN A KIND AND FAITHFUL FRIEND,
HAS DOUBLED ALL MY STORE.”

WITH regard to myself, the intimacy and friendship which I had the honor (for I shall ever esteem it as such) of enjoying with him, though in the evening of life, afforded me the greatest pleasure and happiness, that I ever experienced. When free from the more violent oppressions of disease, his converse was highly pleasing and instructive; with a vivacity and openness of countenance, seldom to be met with in people at his a

His counsel to me was invaluable. He was not always declaiming as a Sage, or admonishing as a Pedagogue ; but never omitted doing it, at seasonable junctures, when he thought it absolutely requisite. Of advice he was never sparing, but when necessary, gave me it with an earnest freedom, and inculcated it in such a manner, as at once declared the honest counsellor, and unfeigned friend. I hope no future conduct of mine will discover, that I have been an unprofitable disciple, or unworthy of his attention. Nothing I revolve in my mind with such delight, as that I ever had it in my power to please him. Opportunities did happen, by the kind favor of Heaven, which enabled me, in some measure, to testify my gratitude to him. If I neglected any means of doing it, I deserve the bitterest reproach ; but I sincerely hope that I have not.

WHILST he was capable, he gave every support, that he could, to public devotion, by a constant attendance on divine service, with his pupils. But latterly, owing to the excruciating malady with which he was almost continually afflicted, he was disabled, and under the necessity of absenting himself from Church. I know that, it has been said by some uncharitable persons, unworthy of the name of Christians, "Tho' he could not go to church he could ride out."—Well, and what would they

infer from that? That, if able to do one, he might the other also? The inference is directly false. The head, that reasons thus, must be very weak and feeble. Riding out lengthened his life many years. Had he gone to Church as usual, it would have given strength to his disease, and shortened his existence. On horseback he could use exercise, and taste, the free, grateful air, which must have greatly counteracted his disorder, and protracted its fatality. On the other hand, the bodily inactivity, requisite in a place of worship, and the horrid coldness of our Church, would have produced a progressive increase of the most violent pain, or, perhaps, instant death.

IN religion, as well as other things, I believe, he thought a good deal for himself, independent on any prescribed forms, or articles. He was not disturbed with either bigotry, or fanaticism, but always maintained a gentle and steady flame, the truest criterion of firm, religious principles. Nature's works had filled his mind with the chastest and most devout sentiments; on this stock the Gospel-truths had ingrafted themselves with success, and formed the purest faith. I have often heard him declare, what a stupendous admiration the sight of the Heavenly Luminaries, in a clear night, excited in him, and, that he could not forb

using the sublime reflection of the Psalmist. "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers ; the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained ; What is man, that thou art mindful of him ? and the son of man, that thou visitest him !"

NOTWITHSTANDING his ill health, his domestic comforts were very great ; sensible was he of them, and highly did he value them. His love for his spouse, whose worth he, most justly, thought inestimable ; and his affection for his little girls, were almost to excess, and could hardly be equalled, but by what he experienced in return. When his diseases were least oppressive, he spent much of his time in instructing his children, and furnishing their minds with what he thought they were susceptible of ; never checked their enquiries, but delighted in answering them. He heavily bemoaned his inability to teach them agreeably to his inclinations. "My poor girls," he would say, "what will become of you ? I can do nothing for you."—His method of reading was very good ; pleasing and harmonious to the ear. He has very successfully imparted this to his children, than whom few people read better, especially the eldest.

This is rather remarkable, when it is considered, that the eldest is only eleven, and the other seven years of age. Here is an eminent example to the generality of parents, who think nothing more is incumbent on them

than to send their children to school, where they will have their A, B, C, &c. taught them, and how many 6 and 6 make; for, on account of the great number of scholars in a common English school, the master, even admitting that he be capable and willing, has no time for the cultivation of the richest part of the human composition. It would be much better for the world, were the pecuniary allowances to a teacher double what they are, and no man permitted to take more than half the usual number. Their education would be sooner finished; and their minds might be stored with such wholesome moral, and religious principles, as would make them fit for entering into civilized society. Whereas, under the present system, they come into the world little better than infants, as to their mental acquisitions; without any other human knowledge, than those of reading, writing, and figures.

WELL did he know how easily the minds of children are tainted and corrupted; with what avidity they hearken to, and with what facility they imbibe, vicious, or immoral expressions. Hence arose that vigilant caution, which he always exercised, in not allowing any

“————LEWDNESS, OR INDECENT SPEECH,

THE APARTMENT OF THE TENDER YOUTH TO HEAR

He suffered nothing to be done, or spoken, in his daughters' presence, that might have the least tendency towards destroying their natural and inherent fortitude; that might any way intimidate, or impress them, with extravagant and unreasonable horrors, or fears; or by which they might receive any false, romantic ideas. Thus, in consequence of the strong disapprobation, which all frightful, unnatural stories met from him; the frequent explication that he gave of their falsity, and pernicious effects; and the universal aversion from them, which he never failed to inculcate; they can discriminate between truth and fiction; and if by chance, they hear of the dread appearance of a ghost; or the malicious fascinations and miraculous achievements of a witch, or such like stories, they remain undaunted, and can with boldness say,—“That’s an old wife’s fable”.—He never made fondlings of them, nor indulged himself in extreme dalliance with them, either in ridiculous deportment of body, or childish, puerile talk. He used to say, “Speak with propriety to children, even when beginning to prattle, and they will endeavour to imitate” They cannot speak well too soon.—Truth was standard of his conversation with them, as much so,

He severely reprobated any unjust attempt to provoke their feelings ; but was highly pleased at discovering their tenderness, or compassion, for any worthy and deserving object. He could not bear, that ever they should be tantalized, or perplexed and disturbed with false alarms.

Nothing, that I have said of my much revered friend, sets him in a more amiable light, than what I have just now presented to you, respecting the management of his children. I have a better opinion of most parents, than to suppose, that this trait will not have numerous admirers. I most earnestly wish that half of those, who approve it, would adopt the same process in their own families. It is of the most momentous consequence to future society, whether truth or falsehood be communicated to those who are now children; whether their delicate, susceptible minds, be furnished with sound moral, and religious knowledge, or unnerved, enfeebled, and debased, by monstrous stories, and idle fictions. Those parents, who are negligent in taking care, that their offspring hear nothing improper, will do well to anticipate that heavy load of reflection, which will be laid upon them, when they grow up, and become duly sensible of the inconvenience and miseries which are inseparably attached to the misinforme

His natural cheerfulness never deserted him. That open countenance, and that pleasing smile, which dwelt upon his lips, never forsook him, 'till they were repressed and succeeded by paleness and languor, the immediate harbingers of death.

His serenity and placidness, even under the acutest of pains, yielded a most delightful, and instructive prospect. "May my last end be like his." It was an indisputable proof of a life, spent in integrity and virtue. Nothing else can secure this to the latter days of a man, who, his mental faculties remaining entire, is accustomed to weighty thought, and serious reflection. There may be some, under a strong delusion of conscience, or dead to every compunction and remorse for a vicious, immoral life ; disordered in their intellects, or grossly mistaken in their religious faith ; who may appear undisturbed, perhaps cheerful, in their declining years. Yet this species of cheerfulness must differ widely from that, which results from an habitual reflection on good and worthy actions ; which fills the breast of him, who is master of all his rational powers, and who has a just, scriptural belief.—I always beheld him with admiration, and drew wisdom from his very face. *He perhaps cannot be a more powerful incitement to virtue, in this life, than the frequent contemplation*

on a wise and good old man, smiling at the shafts of sickness and disease.

In a late publication, the Author observes.—“An old person is an excellent moral lesson : is his brow serene ? he displays, in the most powerful manner, the advantages of temperance and virtue, and with silent eloquence persuades to goodness : is his bosom tortured with remorse ? he teaches us the turpitude and wretchedness of vice. Youth does not make the same impression ; because the expression of the countenance, be it what it may, is ascribed to the transient influence of passion : but, in the aged, it is supposed to be the result of permanent sentiment confirmed by long habit”.—The truth of what is here cited, was firmly corroborated in my much honored friend, whose brow was serenity itself ; free and open as that of the smiling infant. Every admonition fell from him with a double sway. His aspect always recommended, in a most forcible manner, whatever came from his lips, and through its own influence, without the assistance of speech, advised its contemplators to embrace every virtue

DURING the two last years of his life, he was several times attacked by the Gout in particular members, but was never able to throw it well off. Consequently, between its fits, his whole system was miserably discomposed.

as never heard to repine, or arraign Providence for his
 were lot ; nor discover any extreme impatience of afflic-
 tion. He bore all with fortitude and perfect resignation.

THE necessity and duty, by which we all are bound to
 be actively useful and beneficial in our several stations,
 were strongly imprinted in his mind. He would say,
 "Alas ! I can do nothing ; am of no service to any per-
 son, but give a great deal of trouble to all about me."

WITHIN a few days of his decease, he became very desi-
 rous of it. One morning, when he first awoke, he said,
 "This is what I did not expect, to come into this trouble-
 some world again."—Another time he asked his spouse
 whether she thought that he was dying. She answered
 in the negative. He then replied, "she could have
 told him nothing more disagreeable."

THE close attention, that his spouse gave him, day and
 night, impaired and emaciated her so much, as to create
 in him the greatest anxiety for her. One night in my
 presence, after she had been particularly assiduous in her
 affectionate attendance upon him, and much exhausted, he
 claimed, in his tender manner, "My dear lass ! she will
 herself." at the same time, he looked at her with a
sympathetic eye. Yet he could not bear any other
to wait upon him.

